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(54) **Stabilized pharmaceutical composition and stabilizing solvent.**

(57) A stabilized pharmaceutical composition containing paclitaxel, teniposide, camptothecin or other anti-neoplastic agent susceptible to degradation during storage is produced using a solvent system containing a low carboxylate anion content. The solvent system is a mixture of ethanol and a polyoxyethylated castor oil. The polyoxyethylated castor oil is treated with an acid or contacted with alumina to reduce the carboxylate anion content of the solvent. The low carboxylate anion content of the solvent provides extended shelf life and lower amounts of degradation by-products.

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